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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

Washington, D. C.

January 25, 1950

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

This month saw one lecture series on "U. S. Agricultural Policies and Problems" close in Washington while another with a slightly different approach opened at the Agricultural Research Center. At an overflowing BPI Auditorium Secretary of Agriculture Brannan opened the first of a series presented by the ARC Graduate School Committee. He pointed out that every agricultural issue has a research angle which cannot be overlooked or minimized. Emphasizing that agricultural research has blazed many paths, the Secretary quipped that it has also created problems in that operational activities have been unable in many cases to keep up with the pace of research. The visit was a warm and solid experience for the Secretary and he plans an early return.

Speaking on the subject "Your Department and You," T. Roy Reid last week touched on the broad accomplishments of USDA and particularly emphasized the role of each employee apropos this significant service. Later series speakers will be: P. V. Cardon, ARA Administrator--"A Philosophy of Research" (February 3); Oris V. Wells, BAE Chief--"The Economic Climate" (February 17) Ralph Trigg, PMA Administrator--"Administering the Production Program" (March 3) and Stanley Andrews, OFAR Director--"International Problems and Policies Affecting Agriculture" (March 17).

Library Lectures Successful Venture

The recently completed lecture series on Library Science, arranged by Mr. Ralph Shaw (LIB), Languages and Literature, summed up to a new and healthy venture for GS. Mr. Shaw reports over 200 students attended the 8 lectures furnished in cooperation with the Nation's top school of Library Services at Columbia University. For Columbia, the enterprise was so fruitful that followup courses are to be conducted--first in New York City, and then in Baltimore. The lectures, by the way, were not devoted to mechanical library techniques, but covered such important issues as the prohibitive costs of book publishing--a situation which forces publishers to take on only best sellers, thus leaving a great gap in the scope of printed volumes.

International Aspects of Agriculture Stressed in Spring Lecture Series

In line with the belief that familiarity with the wide range of international relations is essential equipment for the alert citizen the committee sponsoring the lectures on "National and International Policies affecting Agriculture" has successfully arranged an imposing series. Chaired by Under Secretary of Agriculture Albert J. Loveland the committee has announced the following topics and speakers: "Agricultural Policies in the British Commonwealth"--A. N. Duckham, Agricultural Counselor, British Embassy; "ECA Influence on Agricultural Policies in Western European Countries"--D. A. Fitzgerald, Director, Food and Agricultural Division, ECA; "FAO's Interest in World Food and Agricultural Policies"--F. T. Wahlen, Director, Agricultural Division, FAO; "U. S. Agriculture and the World Ahead"--Albert J. Loveland, Under Secretary of Agriculture.

Research Achievements Made Clear

A lesson in concise and factual reporting, as well as a significant advance in chemurgy, is presented by the Agricultural Research Administration's "Research Achievement Sheet" for December. In announcing the development of a high quality synthetic rubber produced from turpentine, the direct report keeps the achievement in its economic perspective and at the same time outlines its great potential importance in the event of a national emergency. In the Research Achievement Sheets, reference data are itemized pointedly, thus making clear the highlights of research advances.

Book Department

Will I be successful in the study of law? What chance do I have of being admitted to a medical school? These and other questions are discussed in Predicting Success in Professional Schools, a book recently published by the American Council on Education. Several years ago the Educational Counseling Division of the Veterans Administration prepared a series of technical bulletins to be used by vocational advisement officers. To meet the wide demand for such information the committee on Student Personnel Work of the American Council on Education sponsored the editing of a single volume. Fields treated include engineering, law, medicine, dentistry, music, agriculture, nursing and teacher training. Predicting Success in Professional Schools will interest and aid faculty members, student counselors, and personnel directors as well as students planning careers. The Library's GS collection has a copy on reserve.

U. of Virginia Extends Training

Starting in February the Extension Division of the University of Virginia will offer degree and certificate courses through a newly organized northern Virginia University Training Center. General college subjects, courses in education, engineering, mathematics and physics will be offered at northern Virginia locations selected by those enrolled in the specific courses, on convenient days and hours.

"An Atlas of Ignorance"

So little is known of so much of the earth's surface that we ought to highlight those vast areas of geographical ignorance in an "Atlas of Ignorance," says Mr. S. Whitmore Boggs, GS Physical Sciences Committee and Special Advisor on Geography, U. S. Department of State. In a reprint from the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society (Vol. 93, No. 3, June 1949), Mr. Boggs cites, for example, that only about one-tenth of the earth's 55,000,000 square miles of land surface have been topographically mapped by governments. He notes geophysicists' comments that in all fields of physical science great gaps in observation over large areas "seriously diminish the effectiveness of their calculations and deductions even over areas where measurements have already been made." Summing up the areas of ignorance would forcefully outline the "honest thinking and hard work" ahead before there can be an adequate "inventory of all the earth and its tenants."

Institutional Discrimination

While recognizing that a change in philosophy requires a long-range educational program the Conference on Discriminations in College Admissions in a recent report unanimously rejected discrimination "against an individual for any reason which minimizes his stature as a member of the human family." Sponsored by the American Council on Education, the Conference endorses the position that "the quota system (based on factors of race, color, creed or national origin) cannot be justified on any grounds compatible with democratic principles."

GS Instructor Awarded Fulbright Grant

Our congratulations go to Pietro Lazzari, master artist and teacher, GS instructor of Portrait Painting in Oil, who has been granted Fulbright aid for study in Italy. He and his family sailed for Florence, on January. While Mr. Lazzari's headquarters will be at the University of Florence, the grant covers travel throughout Italy to do research into early Christian art. Particular study will be made of the methods and techniques used in executing the murals and frescos in the many early Italian catacombs and churches.

Merrill Turns Tables; BAE's Callander "Retires" to U. of Florida

December 30 saw the retirement from USDA of two strong and well known figures; William F. Callander and Dr. M. C. Merrill, Chief of Publications. In reversing the normal procedure, Dr. Merrill turned the heretofore inevitably solemn farewell gathering into a happy "riddance" party of his own. What will he do next? His plans, not too official, are to travel for several months and then devote more time to bird watching and study, an avocation he follows keenly as a member of the Audubon Society. Mr. Callander, who has been "brushing up" the last two years in USDA GS courses, has already joined the faculty of the U. of Florida, where he will teach "applied statistics."

Miscellanea; not Trivia

Registration again will be held in the Patio, from January 28 to February 4, with the semester opening the week beginning February 6. Schedules of classes are available at Room 1031. Faculty and committee members may again register for the special fee of \$3.00. . . The British Journal of Documentation will soon carry to Englishmen the story of Ralph Shaw's "Rapid Selector" replete with very British spelling. . . Under auspices of the U. S. Office of Education, in cooperation with the Department of State, two graduate students are exchanged each year between the United States and the other American countries signatory to the Buenos Aires Convention. Applications must be received by the American Republics Section, U. S. Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C., not later than February 15, 1950. . . As I See It, Dr. W. W. Stockberger's book on Observations of a Civil Servant can be purchased from GS. . . Interested in geriatrics? You may be, upon retirement. GS is looking in- to the possibility of lectures or a course on "Planning for Later Life." A Washington club, self-titled The Fossils, interested primarily in providing constructive interests for retired men has discussed the worthy enterprise with GS representatives.

New Courses

The Committee on Human Relations (Dept. of Social Sciences), chaired by Dr. Carl C. Taylor, this spring offers a course on "The American Tradition," taught by Dr. John M. Brewster (PMA), who has given similar courses at Columbia University. In the same department "Transportation Research Materials and Techniques" will be handled by Dr. Donald Church. "Principles of Persuasion" will be taught jointly by Drs. Emery and Beauchamp. "Techniques of Community Dramatics" is another newcomer in the Department of Languages and Literature. Public Administration of- fers three new courses: "Application to Scientific Management in Public Enterprise," taught by Ray Ward; "Top Executive Leadership in Public Ad- ministration," by John J. Corson; and "Internal Organization" Patterns, Relationships and Procedures of Public Agencies, Function of Supervi- sion," Perry R. Taylor. In the Physical Sciences Department (in cooper- ation with Geological Survey) "Advanced Dynamic Geology" is handled by W. T. Pecora and specialists and "Ultrasonics" (in cooperation with the Naval Ordnance Laboratory) will be introduced.

Ohio State Considers GS Course

In mid-December George Harding of Ohio State University visited USDA in search of GS advice in setting up a course in Surveying and Map- ping in OSU's Department of Civil Engineering. Specialization would take place during the last 2 years of the proposed course. Marshall Wright (P&O), Chairman of the GS Technology Department's Division of Surveying and Mapping has been GS's intermediary in this welcome development.

Sincerely,

Luigi H. Ruben

Director